



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

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Pair charged with infant's death in daycare facility

PASADENA – The owner of an in-home daycare and one of her employees was arrested today on felony charges of involuntary manslaughter and child abuse for the 2012 death of an 11-month-old boy left in their care, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Milena Nikodijevic, 51 (dob 9-19-61), and Wendy Roxana Oropeza, 21 (dob 9-10-91), are scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday at Los Angeles Superior Court, Pasadena, in Department D, said Deputy District Attorney Alison Matsumoto, who is prosecuting the case. They are being held on \$100,000 bail each.

Matsumoto said 11-month-old Adam D. was left at Nikodijevic's Burbank daycare, Twinkle Twinkle Little Stars in the 200 block of Santa Anita Avenue, on Feb. 1, 2012.

Oropeza, who worked for Nikodijevic, allegedly improperly secured Adam in another child's car seat inside the day care. The infant fell asleep in the car seat and was asphyxiated by the chest strap.

Nikodijevic allegedly had three times the number of children under the age of two in her care than her license allowed. She had been cited on two prior occasions for having too many children under the age of two in her care, officials said.

The two women are charged in case GA089006 with one count each of involuntary manslaughter and child abuse with great bodily injury allegations. If convicted, they each face up to seven years in state prison.

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